

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 H-02 AGR-10 IO-10 PA-02 PRS-01

USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /130 W
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O R 051650Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0839

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 06774

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: UK COMMODITIES PROPOSAL--LONDON PRESS CONTINUES
GIVE WIDE COVERAGE

REF: LONDON 6708

1. LONDON PRESS THROUGH MAY 5 CONTINUED TO GIVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE UK COMMODITIES PROPOSAL AT KINGSTON, WITH MOST DAILIES STILL HIGHLIGHTING COOLNESS TO PROPOSAL. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE ANALYSIS OF PROPOSAL, WITH GENERAL THRUST BEING IT IS MODERATE, REASONABLE AND AN OVERDUE INITIATIVE FROM THE DEVELOPED WORLD, EVEN IF FROM EYES OF LDC COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES IT FALLS SHORT OF MARK.

2. THE TIMES OF MAY 5 UNDER HEADLINE, "MR. WILSON'S EFFORTS TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN JAMAICA FAIL," NOTED "BRITAIN LOOKS LIKE AN IMPOVERISHED CHARITY WORKER-- MORE SYMPATHETIC THAN MOST, BUT WITH LESS TO GIVE AWAY," IN WHAT OTHERWISE WAS A REASONABLY STRAIGHTFORWARD
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ANALYSIS.

3. GUARDIAN OF MAY 3 RAN EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "THE COST OF OUR CONSCIENCE," WHICH FOUND IT NOT SURPRISING THAT COMMONWEALTH LDC'S WERE NOT SATISFIED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S "CAUTIOUS AQENDA FOR A 'SECOND DEBATE.'" AFTER NOTING THAT WHAT MANY LDC'S WANT IS NEITHER TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE (INDEXATION) NOR REALLY IN THEIR INTEREST, EDITORIAL BRIEFLY EXPLORES BUFFER STOCK IDEA AND STABEX BEFORE CONCLUDING, "THE QUESTION THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIE SHOULD REALLY ASK MR. WILSON IS WHETHER HE WILL ACTUALLY BACK HIS IDEAS WITH CASH." MAY 5 GUARDIAN SUMMARIZED WHITEHALL BACK-UP PAPER AND IN INTENTIONAL SPOTLIGHTING OF COMMODITY PROBLEM, FEATURED ARTICLES ON JAMAICA'S BAUXITE INDUSTRY AND ON LAST WEEK'S WEAKNESS IN LONDON COMMODITY MARKETS.

3. IN ARTICLE DEVOTED MOSTLY TO COMMONWEALTH POLITICAL ISSUES, THE OBSERVER OF MAY 4 PAINTED A BRIGHTER PICTURE OF THE PROPOSAL'S RECEPTION, WITH "...BRITISH INITIATIVE WARMLY RECEIVED (BUT) NOT SEEN AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR MORE RADICAL CHANGES." OBSERVER NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT REJECT INDEXATION BUT SEES PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING IT WORK.

RICHARDSON

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